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United States
Department of
Agriculture

Office of
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Selected Speeches and News Releases

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Remarks

U.S. Department of Agriculture • Office of Public Affairs

Prepared for delivery to the Farm Progress Show by Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter, Amana, Iowa, Sept. 26.

I appreciate this opportunity to participate in an “open dialogue” with you on “Challenges and Opportunities Facing American Agriculture.” Dialogue means we both get to talk, which will give me a chance to listen to your questions and concerns, as well as share with you a few ideas and concerns of my own.

Before we open this dialogue, though, allow me to take a few minutes to “set the stage” with some initial thoughts on what I consider the most topical items on America’s agricultural agenda.

The farm bill now being discussed in Congress would head my list, for reasons of immediacy in terms of timing as well as immediacy of potential farmer impact.

Next, I would consider a successful resolution in December to this current round of trade talks—the so-called “Uruguay Round” of talks—to be of great significance because of its tremendous long-term implications for American farmers.

Third, in keeping with the Take Pride in America theme, of which conservation of our natural resources is so important, I will briefly talk about our comprehensive new USDA policy on water quality.

First, the farm bill. This being Take Pride in America Week, wouldn’t it be nice if we could list the pending 1990 Farm Bill as one of the things about which to take pride. But it would be premature to do that. The long and short of it is, this pending legislation still needs a lot of work.

As currently drafted, this legislation would undo many of the hard-fought gains of the 1985 Farm Bill. Why? Because while farmers had their plows in the fields this Spring, non-farmers in Congress had their heads in the clouds, making competitiveness-killing decisions based on political expediency; decisions farmers didn’t want, and wouldn’t have made for themselves.

In 1981, Congress argued that it could safely raise support levels without damaging our competitiveness, without causing higher budget outlays, without leading to increased supply controls, and without hurting

American agriculture. As we all know, Congress was wrong. One doesn't have to be an agriculture historian to recall the near-catastrophic fallout from that farm bill: Competitors climbed under our price umbrella, increased production and undersold us in the marketplace. Here at home, exports plummeted, farm incomes shrank while farm program costs skyrocketed and land prices fell into the pits. Worse, we lost a lot of dedicated, productive farmers.

Thankfully, the 1985 Farm Bill pulled us out of those economic doldrums. Gone from the 1985 Farm Bill was the foggy "have our cake and eat it too" thinking that made the 1981 Farm Bill so destructive. Farm policies finally became more market-oriented again, and the results are now in. Farm exports grew from \$26 billion to \$40 billion, carryover stocks were reduced, and farmers' debt loads shrank while net farm income hit new record highs.

Now, Congress is preparing a new farm bill for 1990, and from the looks of things, one would think that Yogi Berra, that master of the malapropism, is one of the farm bill conferees: "It's *deja vu* all over again." Once again Congress thinks it knows more about farming, and farm markets and exports, than farmers do. Congress has passed legislation that incorporates some of the same pre-1985 policies that got us into so much trouble only a few years ago. Why are our memories so short, or so faulty?

Could it be because it's an election year, and Congress is eager to pass a "popular" farm bill, even if it may be detrimental to farmers in the long-term?

Though Congress is trying to label this new legislation as being farmer-friendly, it looks to us, and to America's farmers, more like "Nightmare on Elm Street, Part II," where the heart of America's farm economy could once again be handed to our competitors on a silver platter. The Administration has gone to great lengths to point out that these pre-'85 policies are not in anyone's best interests.

In February, we printed a book chock-full of ideas and recommendations on how the 1990 Farm Bill could build on the successes of the 1985 Farm Bill. We called it our "Green Book," our "go book," because it contains policies and recommendations that the Administration, as well as farmers, would like to see included before we go forward with any new farm legislation.

Just so there wouldn't be any confusion, we've also published—and sent to Members of Congress—the specific policy items to be avoided in

any new legislation. This is our “Red Book,” our “stop, these-policies-won’t-fly” book, which lists policies that would cause great consternation to American farmers.

If Congress won’t listen to the Administration, I would plead at least listen to America’s farmers: “Please, don’t do us any favors! Don’t tie our hands, and don’t force us into another agricultural and international disaster. We’ve gone down this uncompetitive road before, and a lot of us didn’t survive to tell about it.”

Let’s give farmers what they really want, not what some here in Washington, D.C. want them to have. Let’s give American farmers a bill that lets them compete. A bill like 1985’s. A bill that lets the Europeans know we are serious about selling in international markets. A bill that lets the United States enter the Uruguay Round negotiations in a strong position to battle against barriers to agricultural trade.

The most important trade negotiations in history are going to conclude ten weeks from now in Brussels, Belgium. That event is an ocean and a continent away, but what happens there will have a huge impact on Iowa farmers and the entire American agricultural community.

I am talking about the GATT negotiations which have been underway for four years. The GATT—the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade—has helped build world prosperity in the post-World War II years. If new multilateral agreements are not achieved it will be because some nations, particularly the developed nations of Europe, have failed to show the necessary political will to build a level playing field for farmers everywhere.

President Bush is determined to build that level playing field. At July’s Economic Summit meeting in Houston, he told the gathered leaders of the world’s wealthiest nations—Japan, Britain, France, Italy, Canada, and Germany—that the United States will not sign a new GATT trade agreement unless American farmers, and farmers all over the world, get a fair break. The President said that no agreement is preferable to a bad agreement.

American farmers do not have a level playing field today. It is hardly level when European governments spend 20 times more than the United States on export subsidies. Our farmers do not get a fair deal when they have to compete against the treasuries of Europe instead of against European farmers. Our farmers do not get a fair break when European governments misuse health and sanitary regulations to keep out American agricultural products—beef being the most recent example. Nor do they

get a fair break when variable levies take away the benefits of their production efficiencies and impede their exports.

The opportunities for America's farmers will be much brighter if we have a significant, new GATT agreement which includes farm products. Only about five out of every 100 people in the world are Americans. We need open markets to sell to the other 95 percent. You can see why President Bush, our trade representative Carla Hills, and I will not compromise on trade reform principles in the GATT negotiations. Gaining a level playing field is vital to the future of American farming.

American farmers are outstanding managers who are prepared to compete against anybody. More market access will give them the chance to prove that. Here is what we are working for in a new GATT agreement: More market access—import barriers must come down; export competition—permit more competition by phasing out export subsidies; internal supports—reduce them over a 10-year period and let the market determine who can produce most efficiently and sell most effectively; sanitary and phytosanitary regulations—use them for legitimate food safety purposes, not to build trade barriers.

You can help in the critical weeks which remain. You can help by making sure your Congressmen and Senators support the U.S. negotiating position, for that position is sound. There are voices outside the U.S. conducting a scare campaign about a new GATT agreement, and there even are some in this country who believe the falsehoods they are spreading. They are saying that a new agreement will mean that nations will no longer be able to help their farmers. That is not true. Governments will continue to have the right to support their farmers, just as long as they do so fairly, without gaining an unfair advantage in the marketplace.

By distorting market signals, many nations have not only precluded development of a level playing field in agriculture, they have also failed to establish sensible policies to conserve the environment. Some nations have encouraged their farmers to grow far beyond market demand, without sufficient attention to water quality and the environment. American agriculture will not take that road. It is the commitment of this Administration to develop sensible ways to sustain our environment and maintain the high productivity of American farms.

In keeping with that goal and commitment, we in the Bush Administration, as part of the President's Water Quality Initiative, have begun a major effort to reduce the risk of agricultural chemical pollution

of ground and surface water. This comprehensive new USDA policy was drafted by the Working Group on Water Quality, and is designed to improve coordination among USDA's broad array of water quality programs, and encourage voluntary adoption of agricultural practices that will protect and enhance the nation's ground and surface water.

This goes hand-in-hand with an effort to help farmers directly by assisting them with practices and farming systems that will reduce the use of chemicals while still preserving farmers' profitability.

As part of our new clean water strategy, the USDA is putting Soil Conservation Service and Extension personnel from all of the 3,000 agricultural counties of the country through an intensive training course in methods of preserving water quality. Our field guides, in many cases, are also being rewritten to help farmers keep agricultural chemicals out of the water.

Our 1990 funding includes 85 state-level projects in which USDA experts are working with state officials to actually solve water problems. This is a practical exercise in which we go in with our sleeves rolled up and help local farmers solve problems.

So all these things—putting our people through crash courses, rewriting our field guides, and working with farmers on the local level—are being done to protect and enhance water quality.

Nitrogen and phosphorus compounds from pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers have been getting into our ground and surface water. The question is: What can we do about it? The answer is: Quite a bit. We can turn good scientific research to the benefit of the American farmer, and help sustain a high level of productivity while also preserving the environment. And we can do this on a voluntary basis, rather than under compulsion.

These are the main challenges now facing American agriculture. They are all important: Passing a new farm bill which will take American agriculture forward, negotiating new trade agreements to open markets abroad, and improving water quality and conserving the environment.

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News Releases

U.S. Department of Agriculture • Office of Public Affairs

USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET PRICE FOR UPLAND COTTON

WASHINGTON, Sept. 20—Under Secretary of Agriculture Richard T. Crowder today announced the prevailing world market price, adjusted to U.S. quality and location (adjusted world price), for Strict Low Middling (SLM) 1-1/16 inch (micronaire 3.5-4.9) upland cotton (base quality) and the coarse count adjustment in effect from 12:01 a.m. Friday, Sept. 21, through midnight Thursday, Sept. 27.

Since the adjusted world price (AWP) is above the 1988, 1989, and 1990 crop base quality loan rates of 51.80, 50.00 and 50.27 cents per pound, respectively, the loan repayment rates for the 1988, 1989 and 1990 crops of upland cotton during this period are equal to the respective loan rates for the specific quality and location.

The AWP will continue to be used to determine the value of upland cotton that is obtained in exchange for commodity certificates. Because the AWP in effect is above the established loan rate, loan deficiency payments are not available for 1990-crop upland cotton sold during this period.

Based on data for the week ending Sept. 20, the AWP for upland cotton and the coarse count adjustment are determined as follows:

Table on next page

Adjusted World Price	
Northern Europe Price	82.73
Adjustments:	
Average U.S. spot market location	13.12
SLM 1-1/16 inch cotton	2.20
Average U.S. location	0.39
Sum of Adjustments	<u>-15.71</u>
ADJUSTED WORLD PRICE	67.02 cents/lb.
Coarse Count Adjustment	
Northern Europe Price	82.73
Northern Europe Coarse Count Price	<u>-76.92</u>
	4.03
	<u>-4.10</u>
Adjustment to SLM 1-inch cotton	-0.07
COARSE COUNT ADJUSTMENT	0 cents/lb.

The next AWP and coarse count adjustment announcement will be made on Thursday, Sept. 27.

Charles Cunningham (202) 447-7954

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USDA CONSIDERS DECLARING MELALEUCA A NOXIOUS WEED

WASHINGTON, Sept. 21—The U.S. Department of Agriculture will hold two meetings to get public input on whether to declare Melaleuca quinquenervia (a non-native tree) a “federal noxious weed.”

The meetings are scheduled from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., on Oct. 29 and in San Francisco, Calif., on Oct. 31. Locations are: room 422, Broward County Governmental Center, 115 S. Andrews Ave., Ft. Lauderdale; and room 1415, 630 Sansome St., San Francisco.

“Florida officials have become concerned because uncontrolled spread of the Melaleuca species could threaten rare plants and animals, interfere with water supplies, and eventually jeopardize the Everglades,” said James W. Glosser, administrator of USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. “Florida already has begun control measures in the southern part of the state.”

Florida officials asked APHIS to declare Melaleuca a federal noxious weed, thus authorizing restrictions on imports and interstate movement and enabling APHIS to cooperate with Florida authorities in managing the plant.

The tree was introduced into Florida in the early 1900's and was widely planted during the 1940's and 50's. It was valued for its ability to control erosion, provide natural fences and windbreaks, furnish wood and serve as an ornamental. Beekeepers also liked Melaleuca because it flowers when few other plants do, thus helping bees overwinter. The tree now covers about 1-1/2 million acres in southern Florida, in addition to plantings in California, Hawaii, Texas and Puerto Rico.

"Before considering declaring Melaleuca a noxious weed, we are soliciting written comments and scheduling public meetings," Glosser said. "Public input will help us decide whether to issue a rule proposing to add Melaleuca to the list of noxious weeds. People would then have further opportunity to comment before we take final action on the issue."

The invitation to submit written comments will be published in the Sept. 24 Federal Register. Written comments on the issue must be received on or before Nov. 24 to be considered. An original and three copies, referring to docket 90-158, should be sent to Chief, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, USDA, Room 866, Federal Building, 6505 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, Md., 20782. Comments may be inspected at USDA, rm. 1141-S, 14th Street and Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C., between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.

Amichai Heppner (301) 436-5222

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USDA PROPOSES SEVEN CHANGES IN REGULATIONS FOR CATTLE BRUCELLOSIS

WASHINGTON, Sept. 21—The U.S. Department of Agriculture is proposing to make seven changes in the current brucellosis regulations, including a provision to allow movement of cattle from approved intermediate handling facilities to quarantined feedlots.

"At present, cattle may move from the farm to a feedlot to slaughter or from an intermediate handling facility directly to slaughter," said James W. Glosser, administrator of USDA's Animal and Plant Health

Inspection Service. “The change would permit cattle from an intermediate handling facility to be taken to a quarantined feedlot prior to shipment to slaughter. This would make it easier to assemble full truckloads of cattle for transportation to quarantined feedlots.”

The other six proposals would:

—Relax the present requirement that “intermediate handling facilities” be located separate and apart from other livestock handling facilities. The proposal would keep that rule only for establishments handling breeding stock.

—Lower the allowable minimum number of live organisms in official calfhood vaccines.

—Specify the conditions under which the standard card test may be used as an official test for vaccinated animals at approved stockyards.

—Allow reinstatement of “certified free herd” status for a herd in which an animal is found to react to a diagnostic test but other evidence demonstrates that the herd is not infected.

—Alter the way statistics on market cattle are used to certify that a state continues to be free of brucellosis.

—Provide for the interstate movement of rodeo bulls on the basis of a single annual test.

“Taken together, the seven proposed changes will remove restrictions on the cattle industry without significantly increasing the risk of spreading brucellosis,” Glosser said. “Basically, the proposals accommodate changes in cattle movement and marketing and respond to other industry concerns.”

Brucellosis, also called Bang’s disease, is an infectious bacterial disease that causes abortions, reduced fertility and lower milk yields in cattle. The disease can be transmitted to humans.

The proposed changes in the brucellosis regulations are scheduled for publication in the Sept. 24 Federal Register. Comments will be accepted if they are received on or before Nov. 24. An original and three copies of written comments referring to docket 88-022 should be sent to: Chief, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, USDA, Room 866, Federal Building, 6505 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, Md. 20782.

Amichai Heppner (301) 436-5222

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USDA ALLOWS SHARWIL AVOCADOS TO MOVE INTERSTATE FROM HAWAII

WASHINGTON, Sept. 21—The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced today it will allow Sharwil avocados to be shipped interstate from Hawaii without treatment, provided they meet certain harvesting and handling requirements.

According to James W. Glosser, administrator of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, the interstate movement of avocados from Hawaii is regulated to prevent the spread of three fruit flies—Mediterranean, melon and Oriental—which are found in Hawaii but not in other parts of the United States.

“We have determined, however, that the Sharwil variety of avocado is not a host to these fruit flies if picked in compliance with USDA regulations and packed within 24 hours,” said Glosser.

Under a previous regulation, published in the Federal Register, March 20, 1987, untreated Sharwil avocados could be moved interstate but only to Alaska because its colder climate and the fact that no host fruits are grown there present little risk of fruit-fly infestation. All avocados grown in Hawaii and shipped to states other than Alaska had to be treated prior to movement.

“We have carefully monitored the movement of Sharwil avocados from Hawaii to Alaska and have discovered no violations of the picking and packing requirements,” said Glosser. “Furthermore, no eggs, larvae or flies have been discovered after the avocados arrived in Alaska.

“We believe that this proves that our monitoring requirements are stringent enough to ensure compliance with the regulations and packing within 24 hours after avocados are picked,” said Glosser. “Therefore, we are allowing movement of untreated Sharwil avocados to any state as long as they are harvested and handled under specified conditions.”

The final rule will be published in the Sept. 24 Federal Register and will be effective Oct. 24.

Pat El-Hinnawy (301) 436-7799

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YEUTTER AND LUJAN ANNOUNCE PLAN TO BALANCE CONSERVATION OF SPOTTED OWL AND ECONOMIC WELL-BEING OF FAMILIES

WASHINGTON, Sept. 21—Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter and Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan today announced the Administration's response to the listing of the Northern Spotted Owl as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA).

That response is based on the recommendations of the Administration's Task Force on the Spotted Owl, which was established on June 26, 1990 following the June 22, 1990 listing. The announcement includes a proposed Forest Service timber sale program for FY 1991, an explanation of the Department of the Interior's plan to implement the ESA with respect to the Spotted Owl, and a plan for longer-term responses to the issue.

Secretary Yeutter and Secretary Lujan said this is a significant step in fulfilling the government's responsibility to achieve equity, fairness, and balance between reasonable and competing environmental and timber objectives.

"The Task Force sought to balance conservation of the Spotted Owl and the economic well-being of families who live in the region," Yeutter and Lujan stated. "This is not a perfect answer, because a perfect answer does not exist. But it is the beginning of a good balance built on knowledge and dialogue to protect our heritage, while minimizing economic dislocation in timberdependent communities of the Pacific Northwest."

The Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior said the Task Force developed its proposals after working in close consultation with Members of Congress and after having sent a sub-cabinet level working group on a week-long trip in July to Washington, Oregon, and northern California. "We have balanced these very sensitive, competing interests in a rational way," said Yeutter. Lujan added, "It is now imperative that the Congress do its part to advance this process."

Yeutter and Lujan proposed short and long-term strategies to guarantee balance in forest management. In the near term, the Administration is requesting that Congress immediately enact legislation enabling the sale of .31 billion board feet (bbf) of timber in FY 1991 in Forest Service Region 5 (northern California), and 3.2 bbf in Region 6 (Washington and Oregon). These sales would include .2 bbf of timber carried over from

the FY 1990 timber sale program in Region 6, and 3.31 bbf of new sales in the two Regions combined.

Nothing in the Task Force's recommendations would require sales of timber from the habitat conservation areas proposed by the Interagency Scientific Committee. In order for those sales to proceed in a timely way, the legislation must provide insulation from the National Forest Management Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, and certain provisions of last year's Section 318 legislation. "We do not recommend precluding judicial review. However, Congress must adopt language that requires implementation of the elements proposed in this plan, notwithstanding the terms of these statutes. Otherwise any sale level set by Congress will be a hollow promise," said Yeutter and Lujan.

The Administration also urges Congress to enact legislation authorizing the immediate convening of the Endangered Species Committee to review both timber sales and land management plans of the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management, as they relate to the Spotted Owl. This recommendation would not in any way alter the substance of the Endangered Species Act. The intent is to allow the Endangered Species Committee to act efficiently and in a timely manner in applying the standards of the ESA to actions taken by the Federal land management agencies.

Both Secretaries stressed little time remains in this Congressional session and quick enactment of this legislation is therefore essential to preserve continuity and stability in the federal timber sale program.

Secretary Lujan also announced the Fish and Wildlife Service, operating under current law, will not require state and private landowners to follow the ISC recommendations as some have feared. Secretary Lujan noted that "many of the high estimates of job losses associated with the Spotted Owl listing assume that the ISC recommendations would apply on state and private lands."

In addition, Secretary Lujan announced that the Fish and Wildlife Service would continue to review all incoming evidence on the conditions affecting the Northern Spotted Owl, including reports that the owl has been able to live in certain second growth forests, particularly in northern California. "If those reports are borne out," Lujan stated, "the Fish and Wildlife Service may well have more conservation options in applying the ESA." These particular measures, Lujan emphasized, need not await new legislation in order to be implemented.

Lujan also stated that he would soon appoint a team to begin the

development of a recovery plan for the Northern Spotted Owl, as required by the Endangered Species Act. According to Lujan, “this recovery plan will outline a series of steps needed for the conservation of the owl, and will be developed with extensive involvement of scientific experts, environmental organizations, timber interests, and the public.”

The longer-term response calls for continuation of the Administration Task Force, which is chaired by Secretary Yeutter, but with a new charge that it now broadly review the nation’s forest management needs. This review will encompass considerations of:

- the potential impact of other possible listings under the Endangered Species Act;
- the challenge of conserving our old-growth forests in an appropriate manner;
- the need to anticipate and plan for adjustments in forest usage, so that abrupt disruptions of local communities can be minimized or avoided;
- the necessity of finding flexible approaches in dealing with multiple demands on our forest resources, including new forestry techniques that may reduce the incompatibility between timber harvesting and habitat preservation; and
- the development of a timber reserve that would provide the secretary of agriculture with discretion to respond to cyclical changes in timber demand. One possibility is setting aside a portion of the areas administratively withdrawn from the timber base (perhaps 1-2%), where the impact on the Spotted Owl would be minimal, as a reserve from which sales could be made under carefully delineated criteria.

The Task Force will recommend administrative and legislative responses necessary to achieve effective and balanced management of public lands.

Kelly M. Shipp (202) 447-4623
Steve Goldstein (202) 208-6416

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PRIVATE EXPORTERS REPORT SALES ACTIVITY FOR JORDAN

WASHINGTON, Sept. 21—Private exporters today reported to the U.S. Department of Agriculture export sales of 100,000 metric tons of hard red winter wheat for delivery to Jordan during the 1990-91 marketing year.

The marketing year for wheat began June 1.

USDA issues both daily and weekly export sales reports to the public. Exporters are required to report to USDA export sales of 100,000 metric tons or more of one commodity, made in one day, to one destination by 3:00 PM eastern time on the next business day following the sale. Export sales of less than these quantities must be reported to USDA on a weekly basis.

Thomas B. McDonald (202) 447-3273
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TREATMENT FOR MANGOES REOPENS IMPORTS FROM SOUTH AMERICA

WASHINGTON, Sept. 24—The U.S. Department of Agriculture has revised its rules for treating mangoes, reopening the United States to imports from Panama and Central and South America.

“Mango imports from those areas were shut off in 1987 because a suitable treatment for fruit flies was no longer available,” said James W. Glosser, administrator of USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. “At that time, the Environmental Protection Agency had disallowed fumigation with ethylene dibromide, the traditional treatment for killing such exotic pests.”

The current rule change is based on new research by USDA’s Agricultural Research Service. It provided convincing evidence that a procedure for dipping South American mango varieties in hot water kills larvae and eggs of fruit flies, including the Mediterranean fruit fly.

U.S. markets are now open to all varieties of mangoes from all of Mexico, Panama, Central America, South America and the West Indies. A hot-water treatment similar to the one now allowed for South American mango varieties had been approved previously for certain varieties imported from the West Indies and Mexico.

The rule change on mango imports was published as a proposal on June 21, and public comments were taken into consideration in preparing

the final rule which will be published in the Sept. 25 Federal Register and will take effect Oct. 25.

Amichai Heppner (301) 436-5222

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USDA FURTHER REDUCES MEDFLY QUARANTINE IN THE LOS ANGELES AREA

WASHINGTON, Sept. 24—The U.S. Department of Agriculture is removing two additional areas near Los Angeles, Calif., from a quarantine imposed to contain an outbreak of Mediterranean fruit fly, or Medfly. The current reduction covers areas in Los Angeles County near Hancock Park and the remaining quarantined area in San Bernardino County near Alto Loma, according to USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

Areas near Los Angeles were first quarantined on Aug. 23, 1989, and the quarantine was enlarged when extensive fly trapping indicated that the outbreak had spread. APHIS officials started removing the first areas from the quarantine last month. However, some areas in the Los Angeles region still remain under quarantine.

The last Medfly was trapped on April 5 in the Hancock area; and on April 18 in the Alto Loma area.

Medflies are among the world's most destructive pests of vegetables and fruits, especially citrus. In the area now being released from quarantine, some 281 enterprises were affected, including fruit and produce markets, vegetable and fruit growers and nurseries.

An interim rule, effective Sept. 21, details the areas where the quarantine is being lifted; the rule is being published in the Sept. 26 Federal Register.

Comments on the interim rule will be accepted if they are received on or before Nov. 26. An original and three copies of written comments referring to docket 90-182 should be sent to the Chief, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, USDA, Room 866 Federal Building, 6505 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, Md. 20782. Comments may be inspected at USDA, Rm. 1141-S, 14th Street and Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C., between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.

Amichai Heppner (301) 436-5222

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EXPERIMENTAL VACCINE FIGHTS COSTLY CHICKEN DISEASE

WASHINGTON—An experimental live vaccine developed by a U.S. Department of Agriculture research team appears virtually 100 percent effective in protecting young chickens against coccidiosis, a serious poultry disease.

“Of 200 chickens we orally vaccinated, none became ill when exposed to the coccidial parasite,” said microbiologist Mark C. Jenkins, who heads the research team in USDA’s Agricultural Research Service.

Jenkins said the vaccine consists mainly of a preparation of the infective stage of the parasite that has been bombarded with X-rays.

“This makes the parasite sterile so it can’t reproduce, but is still alive and able to penetrate a chicken’s intestines,” said Jenkins. He is at the ARS Protozoan Diseases Laboratory, Beltsville, Md.

“Our theory is that when chickens are fed the sterilized coccidial parasite, they react by producing antibodies and immune cells. This protects them from infection when exposed to disease-causing parasites,” he said.

Coccidiosis costs American poultry farmers over \$300 million annually in lost weight gain and medication, he said.

Usually, most infected birds look healthy, but “the parasite prevents them from absorbing nutrients from the gut,” he said. “This causes a sort of slow starvation.”

He said three versions of the vaccine were produced, one for each of the three worst species of chicken coccidiosis. All were equally effective in the tests.

“As promising as it may seem, this vaccine is a few years from practical use,” said microbiologist Harry D. Danforth, another member of the team. “We need at least another year of laboratory testing, followed by extensive field studies, to make sure it is effective in large commercial flocks,” he said.

After the parasite is sterilized, Jenkins said, no radiation remains in the vaccine so that it is safe for use in the birds. If further tests work out, the vaccine would require approval by the Food and Drug Administration before it could be used commercially.

“The new vaccine would be superior to current methods of protecting chickens from coccidiosis,” said Jenkins. Most U.S. poultry farmers control coccidiosis in their flocks by medicating the feed. The parasites

often develop resistance to the drugs and new medications then have to be developed.

Other controls use live parasites in various forms including vaccines, Jenkins added. He noted that, with these methods, chicken houses can accumulate infectious forms of the parasites. "There is also the chance that vaccines could revert to virulent forms," he said.

"Our vaccine does not have any of these drawbacks," he said.

According to microbiologist Patricia C. Augustine, a colleague of Jenkins, "the technique is not new but we ran dozens of tests to fine-tune the dosage of X-rays to sterilize the parasites and at the same time leave no disease-causing parasites in the preparation."

Vince Mazzola (301) 344-1712

Issued: Sept. 24, 1990

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USDA LIFTS MEDFLY QUARANTINE FROM SANTA CLARA COUNTY, CALIF.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 24—An infestation of Mediterranean fruit flies in Santa Clara County, Calif., has been eradicated, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service is lifting its quarantine on fruit and vegetables there.

The Mountain View area of Santa Clara county was quarantined on Sept. 14, 1989, when traps revealed a breeding population of Medflies. The last Medfly was trapped there on Sept. 15, 1989, and no evidence of reinfestation has been found. Portions of Los Angeles, Orange and San Bernardino Counties in southern California remain infested and still are under quarantine.

Medflies are among the world's most destructive pests of vegetables and fruits, especially citrus. In the Mountain View area, about 140 enterprises were affected by the quarantine, including fruit and produce markets, nurseries, vegetable and fruit growers, community gardens and a commercial fruit drier.

An interim rule, effective Sept. 14 and published in the Sept. 19 Federal Register, details the action being taken. Comments on the interim rule will be accepted if they are received on or before Nov. 20. An original and three copies of written comments referring to docket 90-179 should be sent to Chief, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD,

APHIS, USDA, Room 866, Federal Building, 6505 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, Md. 20782. Comments may be inspected at USDA, rm. 1141-S, 14th Street and Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, D.C., between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.

Amichai Heppner (301) 436-5222

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TWO TENNESSEANS PLEAD GUILTY TO CHARGES OF SELLING ADULTERATED MEAT

WASHINGTON, Sept. 25—Late yesterday, two Tennessee residents pleaded guilty in Federal District Court in Chattanooga to conspiracy and felony violations of the Federal Meat Inspection Act, said the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Inspector General Leon Snead.

They were identified as Jack C. Clark, 61, owner of Hixson Packing Company, 6018 Mill Road, Hixson; and Bobby A. Bell, 51, Delano; a cattle buyer for Craig's Processing, 2507 Ooltewah Ringold Rd., Ooltewah.

Charges also were filed against Norman A. Craig, 46, owner of Craig's Processing, for conspiracy to violate the Federal Meat Inspection Act. Craig is expected to plead guilty to the charges on Oct. 1.

Clark pleaded guilty for conspiring with Craig to sell adulterated beef products. Bell pleaded guilty to conspiracy for his role in assisting Craig to locate and purchase disabled and diseased cattle.

Craig and Clark could each face maximum penalties under the law of eight years in prison and \$250,000 fines. Bell could receive a maximum sentence of five years and fine of \$250,000.

The charges resulted from a joint investigation by special agents of USDA's Office of Inspector General, and compliance officers of USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service. The investigation focused on allegations that Craig and Clark were clandestinely processing meat from disabled and diseased cattle which they identified as "federally inspected beef" and selling the meat to local merchants and restaurants, Snead said.

The Federal Meat Inspection Act governs the slaughter, processing and distribution of meat in commerce. Under this act, meat and meat products

placed into commerce must be inspected for wholesomeness and be fit for human consumption.

Henry Hairston (202) 447-6701

#

USDA DECLARES IDAHO FREE OF CATTLE TUBERCULOSIS

WASHINGTON, Sept. 25—The U.S. Department of Agriculture has declared Idaho free of cattle tuberculosis, making cattle there more marketable both domestically and internationally.

USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service announced that Idaho met the requirements of a bovine tuberculosis accredited-free state because no cattle infected with tuberculosis have been discovered there for at least five years. The last infected herd was slaughtered Sept. 12, 1984.

In the interim, Idaho also has maintained an active program to identify cattle so that any animal can be traced back to its herd of origin. The surveillance program was supported by the livestock industry, state officials, veterinarians and others.

At the moment, the tuberculosis status of three other states is in the process of change. In addition to Idaho, Ohio is acquiring "free" status, while recently discovered diseased herds are causing Kansas and Oklahoma to lose their "free" status. The four actions offset one another, so that 41 states plus the Virgin Islands are still considered "free."

An interim rule redesignating Idaho as free of cattle tuberculosis became effective Sept. 25 and will be published in the Sept. 25 Federal Register. Comments on the action will be accepted if they are received on or before Nov. 26. An original and three copies of written comments referring to Docket 90-173 should be sent to the Chief, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, USDA, Room 866 Federal Building, 6505 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, Md. 20782. Comments may be inspected at USDA, Rm. 1141-S, 14th Street and Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, D.C., between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.

Amichai Heppner (301) 436-5222

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USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET RICE PRICES

WASHINGTON, Sept. 25—Under Secretary of Agriculture Richard T. Crowder today announced the prevailing world market prices of milled rice, loan rate basis, as follows:

- long grain whole kernels, 8.28 cents per pound;
- medium grain whole kernels, 7.32 cents per pound;
- short grain whole kernels, 7.27 cents per pound;
- broken kernels, 4.14 cents per pound.

Based upon these prevailing world market prices for milled rice, rough rice world prices are estimated to be:

- long grain, \$5.20 per hundredweight;
- medium grain, \$4.72 per hundredweight;
- short grain, \$4.70 per hundredweight.

Today's changes of world market prices reflect changes in world milled rice prices and adjustments for domestic by-product values.

The prices announced are effective today at 3 p.m. EDT. The next scheduled price announcement will be made Oct. 2, at 3 p.m. EST, although prices may be announced sooner if warranted.

Gene Rosera (202) 447-7923

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PRIVATE EXPORTERS REPORT SALES ACTIVITY FOR SAUDI ARABIA

WASHINGTON, Sept. 25—Private exporters today reported to the U.S. Department of Agriculture export sales of 300,000 metric tons of barley for delivery to Saudi Arabia during the 1990-91 marketing year.

The marketing year for barley began June 1.

USDA issues both daily and weekly export sales reports to the public. Exporters are required to report to USDA export sales of 100,000 metric tons or more of one commodity, made in one day, to one destination by 3 p.m. Eastern time on the next business day following the sale. Export sales of less than these quantities must be reported to USDA on a weekly basis.

Thomas B. McDonald (202) 447-3273

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EXTRA CALCIUM SLOWS BONE LOSS IN WOMEN GETTING LESS THAN HALF THE RDA

WASHINGTON, Sept. 26—A clear message for older women who get less than half the recommended amount of calcium emerged from a large, two-year U.S. Department of Agriculture study published Sept. 27 in the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

“It’s costing them bone,” said Bess Dawson-Hughes, a physician. She led the study of 361 postmenopausal women at USDA’s Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging at Tufts, Boston.

Women in the study who normally consumed less than 400 milligrams of calcium daily lost two to three percent of their bone density at the hip, wrist and spine during the two years if they got a placebo instead of a calcium supplement, Dawson-Hughes said.

Getting a daily 500-mg supplement—which raised total calcium intake to the recommended 800 mg—reduced bone loss to one percent or less in the women who had reached menopause six or more years before the study began.

But it did not slow bone loss in those who had stopped menstruating within five years of the study’s beginning, she said.

Nor was it effective in the women who normally consumed between 400 and 650 mg of calcium each day, she said. In these women, those getting the 500-mg supplement lost about the same amount of bone as the women getting the placebo.

“It appears there is a threshold of calcium intake, below which skeletal reserves may be used to meet daily calcium needs,” said Dawson-Hughes. She heads calcium and bone metabolism research at the Boston center, which is funded by USDA’s Agricultural Research Service.

She concluded: “Healthy older postmenopausal women (more than five years past menopause) with calcium intakes under 400 milligrams daily can significantly reduce bone loss by increasing their intakes to 800 mg a day.”

The study did not address whether a bigger dose of calcium—putting total intake at 1,000 mg or more—would have retained more bone, Dawson-Hughes said, pointing out that many women fail to get the recommended 800 mg.

According to the latest USDA estimates, which do not take supplement use into account, the average calcium intake for women 50 years and older is between 560 and 600 mg a day from food sources.

“It’s safe to say there are millions of women with inadequate intakes,” said Dawson-Hughes.

She said she stopped the study, originally planned for five years, after two years when the statistician checked the data and alerted her to the rapid bone loss in the low-intake group. “I wanted to give them the opportunity to increase their calcium intake.”

The fact that extra calcium did not slow bone loss in the recently menopausal women in this group wasn’t surprising, she said. Studies have shown that the loss of estrogen prompts rapid loss of bone mineral, especially from the spine, regardless of the calcium intake during this period, she said. “But we don’t understand how estrogen affects bone.”

This study found that all calcium supplements are not equal in curbing bone loss. A little known formulation—calcium citrate malate—prevented loss of spine bone in the older members of the low-intake group whereas the most commonly sold form—calcium carbonate—did not, she said.

Calcium citrate malate is currently available only in a fortified orange juice, she said. Combined with malic acid abundant in apples and citric acid abundant in citrus fruits, it has been shown to be well absorbed by the body. “That’s why we were interested in studying it.”

Low-fat milk and milk products are the richest sources of calcium and supply about 43 percent of the calcium in U.S. women’s diets. Eight ounces of plain yogurt made with lowfat or nonfat milk, for example, provides 40 percent of the recommended 800 mg a day.

Breads, cereals, pastas and other grain products supply about one quarter of U.S. women’s dietary calcium, according to the agency.

Dawson-Hughes’ colleagues on the study included statistician Gerard E. Dallal and epidemiologist Elizabeth A. Krall, who earlier published that older women may need more vitamin D than currently recommended, based on findings from this study. ARS primarily funded the study, with additional support provided by the Proctor and Gamble Co. of Cincinnati, Ohio.

Judy McBride (301) 344-4095

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YEUTTER LAUNCHES FARM CONSERVATION PROGRAM, WATER QUALITY POLICY

AMANA, Iowa, Sept. 26—Taking advantage of an event in which he launched a three-year “Take Pride in America” Farm Conservation Program, Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter today also announced a comprehensive new USDA Water Quality policy designed to reduce the pollution of ground and surface water by agricultural chemicals.

Appearing at the Farm Progress Show here with executives from Goodyear and two national farm conservation groups, Yeutter praised the conservation efforts of America’s farmers, and their contributions to protecting the environment.

“American farmers have long been conscientious stewards of America’s natural resources,” Yeutter said. “Now, through this Farm Conservation Program, we have an opportunity to recognize those farmers who practice exceptional conservation techniques.”

The Farm Conservation Program, a cooperative effort between USDA, the National Association of Conservation Districts and the National Association of State Conservation Agencies, will honor an outstanding farmer in each of the nearly 3,000 soil and water conservation districts across the United States during a three-year period.

Continuing the theme of farmers as conservationists, Yeutter went on to announce a new United States Department of Agriculture Water Quality policy, which will improve coordination among USDA’s vast array of water quality programs, and encourage farmers to adopt agricultural practices and systems that reduce pesticide and agricultural chemical-induced ground and surface water contamination, while still preserving farmers’ profitability.

As part of the new clean water strategy, USDA is putting Soil Conservation Service and Extension personnel in all of the 3,000 agricultural counties of the country through an intensive training course in methods of preserving water quality, and, in many cases, is rewriting old guides to help farmers keep agricultural chemicals out of the water.

Kelly Shipp (202) 447-4623

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WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICAN COUNTRIES ELIGIBLE FOR MORE WHEAT UNDER EEP

WASHINGTON, Sept. 26—Under Secretary of Agriculture Richard T. Crowder today announced an opportunity for sales of an additional 500,000 metric tons of wheat to 17 west and central African countries under the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Export Enhancement Program.

Guinea and Mauritania are newly eligible countries for wheat under this initiative. The eligible countries now include Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canary Islands, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo.

Sales of wheat will be made to buyers in these 17 countries at competitive world prices. The export sales will be made through normal commercial channels with the assistance of commodities from the inventory of USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation. The subsidy will enable U.S. exporters to compete at commercial prices in these west and central African markets.

Today's allocation, added to the 19,585 metric tons remaining under a previous allocation to west African countries, brings the total quantity of available wheat to these countries under EEP to 519,585 metric tons.

This allocation will be valid for a one-year period as provided for in the invitation for offers. Details of the program, including an invitation for offers from exporters, will be issued in the near future.

For more information call Paul Cummins, (202) 382-9240, or Larry McElvain, (202) 447-3224. For a tape-recorded message announcing the issuance of invitations under EEP call the CCC Operations Hotline, (202) 447-2042.

Sally Klusaritz (202) 447-3448

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MOROCCO ELIGIBLE FOR MORE WHEAT UNDER EXPORT ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

WASHINGTON, Sept. 26—Under Secretary of Agriculture Richard T. Crowder today announced an opportunity for sales of an additional 1.2 million metric tons of U.S. wheat to Morocco under the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Export Enhancement Program.

Sales of wheat will be made to buyers in Morocco at competitive world prices. The export sales will be made through normal commercial channels with the assistance of commodities from the inventory of the USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation. The subsidy will enable U.S. exporters to compete at commercial prices in the Moroccan market.

Today's allocation, added to the 610,950 metric tons remaining under the previous allocation, brings the total quantity of available wheat to Morocco under the EEP to 1,810,950 metric tons.

This allocation will be valid for a one-year period as provided for in the invitation for offers. Details of the program, including an invitation for offers from exporters, will be issued in the near future.

For more information call Paul Cummins, (202) 382-9240, or Larry McElvain, (202) 447-3224. For a tape-recorded message announcing the issuance of invitations under EEP call the CCC Operations Hotline, (202) 447-2042.

Sally Klusaritz (202) 447-3448

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CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES ELIGIBLE FOR MORE BARLEY MALT UNDER EEP

WASHINGTON, Sept. 26—Under Secretary of Agriculture Richard T. Crowder today announced an opportunity for sales of an additional 40,000 metric tons of U.S. barley malt to six Central American countries—Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Panama—under the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Export Enhancement Program.

Belize is newly eligible under this initiative.

Sales of barley malt will be made to buyers in the six countries through normal commercial channels at competitive world prices. The export sales will be facilitated through the payment of bonuses in the form of

commodities from the inventory of USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation. The subsidy will enable U.S. exporters to compete at commercial prices in the Central American market.

This allocation will be valid for a one-year period as provided for in the invitation for offers. Details of the program including an invitation for offers from exporters will be issued in the near future.

For more information call Paul Cummins, (202) 382-9240, or Larry McElvain, (202) 447-3224. For a tape-recorded message announcing the issuance of invitations under EEP call the CCC Operations Hotline, (202) 447-2042.

Sally Klusaritz (202) 447-3448

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**THIS WEEK'S HONEY-LOAN REPAYMENT LEVELS
UNCHANGED**

WASHINGTON, Sept. 27—Producers may repay their 1989 honey price-support loans at the following levels, according to Keith D. Bjerke, executive vice president of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation:

Weekly Honey-loan Repayment Levels, color and class, cents per pound, 1989 crop Table

White	40.0
Extra-light Amber	37.0
Light Amber	36.0
Amber.....	35.0
Nontable.....	33.0

The weekly repayment level for 1990-crop honey is 38.0 cents per pound for all colors, table and nontable grades.

Levels are unchanged from those announced last week.

Producers who redeem their honey pledged as loan collateral by repaying their honey-price support loans at these levels may not repledge the same honey as collateral for another loan.

Jane K. Phillips (202) 447-7601 8:00 am-4:30 pm EST

John C. Ryan (202) 447-8207 4:30 pm-5:30 pm EST

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USDA EASES IMPORT RESTRICTIONS ON MEAT AND LIVESTOCK FROM CHILE

WASHINGTON, Sept. 27—The U.S. Department of Agriculture has declared Chile free of foot-and-mouth disease and rinderpest, two major cattle diseases, and has issued regulations easing imports of Chilean meat and livestock.

“The new rules remove some of our prohibitions and restrictions on importing meat from Chilean cattle, sheep and goats,” said James W. Glosser, administrator of USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. “However, we must keep in place a number of special restrictions on imports of these meat products, and we also will continue current restrictions on swine and pork products.”

Glosser said he expects Chile to export few if any traditional farm animals or meat products but foresees the possibility of a new flow of llamas and alpacas coming into the United States under these new rules. Special health certification, testing and quarantine requirements have been developed to deal with these animals.

Llamas and alpacas still will have to be quarantined at the Harry S Truman Animal Import Center, a high-security facility on Fleming Key, near Key West, Fla. Quarantined animals, as well as sentinel animals housed with them, will undergo laboratory tests for foot-and-mouth disease. Exporters also have to arrange a 60-day pre-embarkation quarantine in Chile. However, the new rules reduce the quarantine after arrival from 90 to 40 days, making the quarantine less costly.

Rinderpest and foot-and-mouth disease are viral infections that strike cloven-hoofed animals—they are no threat to human health. The diseases cause a variety of symptoms leading to reduced productivity, weakness and often death. Rinderpest has never been known to exist in Chile and constitutes no appreciable risk. The last outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in Chile was eradicated in August 1987, and Chilean officials have taken precautions against a recurrence of this disease, Glosser said.

For example, Chile has increased its surveillance tests for foot-and-mouth disease. It has improved its border-control system to keep infected animals from entering illegally, and it maintains a series of internal checkpoints along its highways. Chile also identifies llamas and alpacas with official eartags, reducing the chance that infected animals from other countries could be included in an export shipment.

In order to be declared free of rinderpest and foot-and-mouth disease, a country must have an effective eradication, control and surveillance program for these diseases; it also must be free of these diseases for at least one year. Chile meets these standards, Glosser said, but USDA imposes special import restrictions on Chile nonetheless because neighboring countries are still infected with foot-and-mouth disease.

APHIS published proposals to declare Chile free of foot-and-mouth disease and to establish special import regulations for llamas and alpacas in the Federal Register on Aug. 17 and Sept. 28, 1989, respectively. The final rules will be published as dockets 89-209 and 89-216 in the Sept. 28, 1990 Federal Register. Both rules will take effect on Oct. 29.

Amichai Heppner (301) 436-5222

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